Industries has also prepared a draft National Food Processing Policy, which is expected to contribute in creating an enabling environment for this sector.

Rail Over Bridges at Changsari and Rangia

*474. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build two overbridges at the rail crossings on National Highway No. 31, one between Changsari and Amingaon and the other at Rangia Town; and

(b) if so, by when Government would decided to build the overbridges?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Both works were sanctioned in Railways Budget on cost sharing basis. However, the work is now included in the East-West Corridors Programme of National Highways Development Project.

Increase in Fish Production

†*475. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fish production in the country has increased as a result of technical improvement in the trawlers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that poor fishermen are not getting the benefit of this technical improvement: and

(c) if so, the facilities available in Orissa, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh for modernisation of trawlers and the percentage of trawlers modernised in these States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Technical up-gradation of fishing vessels has increased the per unit catch per vessel. Traditional fishermen are getting the benefit of technical improvement through motorisation of their traditional craft with Out-Board Motor (OBM) and In-Board Motor (IBM), which enable them to bring an average additional fish catch of about one tonne per craft per annum in prime condition. There are a number of schemes for the benefit of poor fishermen under implementation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

such as (i) Motorisation of traditional craft with provision of subsidy for engines, (ii) Assistance to Fishery Cooperatives under Integrated Development Projects of National Cooperative Development Corporation of purchase of operational inputs such as fishing boats, nets, and engines, (iii) Assistance for installation of fish finder, global positioning system, radio telephones etc. on board the fishing vessels, provided by Marine Products Export Development Authority; Department of Ocean Development, etc.

As reported by the States, the percentage of modernization of fishing fleet including traditional craft is 24.70 in Orissa, 43.12 in Kerala, 47.25 in Maharashtra, 42.82 in West Bengal and 19.21 in Andhra Pradesh.

Task Force on Chemical Industry

*476. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has decided to set up a high powered task force on chemical industry to strengthen the chemical industry to boost exports and to facilitate enhanced foreign direct investment;

(b) if so, what would be the main task of this task force;

(c) whether this task force has formulated any major policy initiatives;

(d) if so, whether any recommendation has been made by this task force;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (f) A Task Froce on the chemical industry has been set up with the following terms of reference:

(i) Identify the areas of competitve advantages of the Indian chemical industry in the context of the emerging global scenario.

(ii) Formulate policy initiatives required to further strengthen areas of competitve advantages.

(iii) Examine the issue of "dumping" in the chemical sector and suggest remedial measures including appropriate levels of tariffs.

(iv) Identify steps to be taken for introducing GMPs which are at par with international standards.